

## **William Harris Crawford to Andrew Jackson, July 1, 1816, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

### **SECRETARY CRAWFORD TO JACKSON.1**

1 Copy.

War Department, July 1, 1816.

*Sir*, Your letter of the 13th ultimo has been received.<sup>2</sup> The omission on the part of the Adjutant and Inspector General to send you a copy of the order to General Gaines, has produced the remarks which it contains. From the perusal of that order, which the Adjutant and Inspector

<sup>2</sup> It is to be regretted that this letter is not preserved. The words of Crawford imply that Jackson had protested against the order to Gaines much as he protested during the following year against the order to Maj. Stephen H. Long.

General has been directed to forward, you will discover that no absolute arrest has been directed. The Executive has been induced to take this course, as well from the nature of the case, as from the situation of affairs in the Department more immediately under his command. It was believed, that his services might be necessary in the Department, as long as it was practicable for him to remain there consistently with his punctual attendance at the Court instituted for his trial. The distant period assigned for the Convention of the Court, was intended, among other things, to give you an opportunity of assigning the Command of the Department to any other officer in your division, should the aspect of affairs render the selection an object of importance.

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The ferment produced in the public mind in the State of Tennessee, by misrepresentations in relation to the cherokee convention, is more regretted, as it can only tend to the injury of those who are led astray. That Convention, as well as every other which has been, or shall be ratified by the President, with the advice of the Senate, will be strictly executed, unless the Cherokee and Chickasaw title to the lands in question, shall be extinguished by the Commissioners appointed to treat with the latter tribe.

The idea attempted to be imposed upon the public, by the intruders, that they are ready to remove from their settlements, as public property, but not as Indian lands, is too shallow a device to deceive the most inconsiderate. The most of these intruders have entered upon the land in question, since the running of Genl. Coffee's line,<sup>3</sup> and are as liable to be removed, as tho' the act of Congress had never passed. That act provides only for those who had intruded before the first day of February last, on the ground that the proclamation was not known before they had entered upon the public land.

3 Line run by General Coffee as commissioner under Jackson's treaty of Aug. 9, 1814, with the Creeks.

The intruders upon the land in question, acted with full knowledge upon the subject; or, at least, they had the means of knowing that their intrusion was in violation both of the law, and the proclamation, and yet they have the effrontery to talk of submission to the laws. It is easy to make professions, and nearly as easy to devise pretexts for an unlawful act, especially if it is not thought necessary that they should even be plausible. This appears to be the case in the present instance. This delusion must be terminated. The idea of resisting the authority of the government, must not be admitted for a moment. As the execution of the law, should it be resisted, will immediately devolve upon you, as the Commanding General of the Southern division, it is expected, that you will use your influence to arrest this momentary delusion, which otherwise, may possibly be carried so

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far as to make the interference of the military indispensable. This unpleasant alternative is by no means apprehended; but the very idea of it ought not to be permitted to exist.

I have the honor to be,